

COCHRAN'S COMMENT

CROOKS VERSUS HOYNE.—Legal crooks, political crooks, tax-dodging crooks, police crooks, newspaper crooks, petty crooks and even many of the respectable crooks will do all they can to beat Hoyne for state's attorney. Every interest which can't use him and his office to further its own selfish ends will be against Hoyne. And that ought to be enough to gain him the support of all the square men in town, without regard to party. The state's attorney's office should not be a political job. It should not only be non-partisan, but the state's attorney should be an honest, fearless man who understands his obligation to society, and who can't be bribed by big or little crooks, or bulldozed by powerful interests. I fought Hoyne four years ago because I thought he would be controlled by Hearst. I am for him now entirely because of his clean record as a public official and because he has not been afraid to perform his duty, no matter at whom it might strike. I am for him because he has not been bossed by political or newspaper bosses, and because I do not believe he can be induced under any circumstances to use the great power of his office for a corrupt purpose. And I would consider it a mighty dangerous thing for Chicago to have the state's attorney's office controlled by a political machine. When crooks strike at Hoyne in an attempt to besmirch him, consider the source, consider his record and consider the desperate purpose—and consider the importance of having in that office a clean, fearless, incorruptible man.

A MAN'S RIGHTS.—President Shonts of the N. Y. street railways says of the strike: "The only question at issue is whether the individual is to be protected in his constitutional rights to work under con-

ditions satisfactory to himself individually." That sounds reasonable as a theory, but the practice, with such bosses as Shonts in control, knocks the stuffing out of the theory. The "open shop" as the bosses call it, sounds reasonable to the man who doesn't understand its practical application. But union men know from bitter experience that the so-called "open" shop is open only to non-union workers, and that when real union men go to work in an open shop they are quickly spotted and fired. The way bosses like Shonts protect the individual's "constitutional right" is to bust the union, deprive the workers of the protection of organization and then practically coerce them into signing contracts as individuals. Workers have as much right to organize as employers have—and they are in just as much need of organization. The industrial war is caused mainly by the bosses denying to employes an important right the bosses exercise for themselves.

I believe in organization. I believe in the organization of capital and in the organization of labor. Men are men whether employes or employers. If employes are organized and employers are not, then employers will get the worst of it. If employers are organized and employes are not, then the employes will get the worst of it. If both are thoroughly organized then each will respect the strength of the other and there is a chance for peace through fair dealing.

The Illinois Manufacturers association is a powerful organization of employers. They work together in dealing with labor. The public would be better off if all of the employes were organized and working together for their interest just as the employers are organized and work together for theirs.

Shonts isn't interested in the constitutional rights of the individual employe whenever those rights really